

Pam stepped forward and adopted the entire company. She coordinated the efforts of other volunteers to ensure that each Marine was assigned a supporter to communicate with them throughout their deployment. In addition, Pam wrote them herself, and sent care packages. Pam provided so much love, support and appreciation to these troops, that she is now called "Mom." In addition, many of these soldiers and their families include her in their personal celebrations. To Pam, this is the greatest honor of all.

Pam continued to support Engineer Company B when they were redeployed in 2005. In addition, she helps them with the annual Toys for Tots drive. She continues to encourage others to join Adoptapatoon and support our service men and women. Pam believes our military is the best in the world, and they should receive the best we can give. She takes it upon herself to give them her best.

Because of her outstanding commitment to Adoptapatoon and our troops, Pam has been awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. This award is given to volunteers in recognition of their service to their community and their country.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I thank Pam Brunette for her years of selfless dedication to our men and women in uniform. As she continues to work to bring a sense of appreciation and concern to our military personnel and their families, let us pay special tribute to this woman who truly expresses support for our troops through her action, dedication and commitment.

KATERYNA KONDRATYSHYNA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kateryna Kondratyshyna who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kateryna Kondratyshyna is a junior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kateryna Kondratyshyna is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kateryna Kondratyshyna for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
PATRICK O'CONNOR

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Chicagoan and a true friend, Patrick O'Connor, who passed away this past Tuesday.

An athlete and a sports fan, Patrick was the past President of the Chicago Gaelic Athletic Association, and the St. Pat's Football Club. An active member of our community, Patrick was a committed member of the DeSoto Council Knights of Columbus. A dedicated family man, Patrick leaves behind his beloved wife Barbara, his five children: Michael, Robert, Catherine, Daniel, and Alderman Pat O'Connor, as well as dozens of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

On behalf of my family, and those lives in my district that Patrick touched over the years, I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2009 BEAT THE ODDS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2009 Beat the Odds Awards presented by the Prince William County Bar Foundation. The awards recognize extraordinary youth in our community for their determination to overcome adversity and lead a full, productive life.

Beat the Odds Awards focus on young people who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system and, despite such an obstacle, have overcome abuse, neglect or juvenile delinquency with an earnest effort to realize a successful future.

It is my honor to commend the following individuals who have risen above substantial negative influences and are now being recognized as community success stories.

Recipients of the 2009 Beat the Odds Phoenix Award: Jessi Danner, Angela Garcia, Cynthia Hubler, Sha-Kina Jackson, and Maria Ann Sisson.

Recipients of the 2009 Beat the Odds Scholarship Award: Diana S. Alvarado, Howard James Artis, Courtney Blaydes, Ian Gabriel Byrd, Breanna Lee West Chrisman, Christopher England, Kendra A. Hedgespeth, Devon Kennedy, Brittani Nicole Rodriguez, Yaileen Rodriguez, and Rebecca L. Smith.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these young people for the positive example they set for their peers. Our community sends a powerful message to our youth when we encourage them to triumph over setbacks and to gain strength from hardship. The fact that more than \$100,000 in Beat the Odds scholarships have been awarded thus far is a testament to that message.

IN TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR
ALEXANDROS P. MALLIAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Alexandros P. Mallias, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States. During his tenure, Ambassador Mallias has fostered greater understanding and forged closer bonds between the leaders of Greece and America, including with many members of the House and Senate and officials in the Executive Branch. Ambassador Mallias has been a truly outstanding representative of the Hellenic Republic.

After nearly four years leading the Greek diplomatic delegation to the United States, Ambassador Alexandros Mallias is returning to serve as a senior advisor to the Greek Foreign Minister, Dora Bakoyianni, on critical issues in the sensitive Balkan region. Having first presented his credentials in Washington in 2005, Ambassador Mallias has served with distinction during a critical period in Greek American relations.

A proponent of public diplomacy, Ambassador Mallias has made hands-on interaction with the American people an integral part of his mission here, reaching beyond the bounds of Beltway politics. He traveled extensively throughout the U.S., visiting more than 30 states and delivering more than 140 public lectures at universities, think tanks and other organizations, not just on issues relating to Greece, but also on matters affecting the broader Southeastern European region.

Born on October 1, 1949, Ambassador Mallias traces his family's roots to Sternitsa in the mountainous region of Arcadia. He received his undergraduate degree in Economics from University of Athens, studied Political Science at the University of Geneva, and obtained a Post-Graduate Certificate from the "Institut des Hautes Etudes Européennes". He joined the Foreign Service of the Hellenic Republic in 1976.

Ambassador Mallias developed a close and warm relationship with the Hellenic American Community.

He and his wife Françoise, whom he affectionately calls his "pillar of support," devoted themselves tirelessly and selflessly to promoting the relationship between the United States and Greece. They opened the Greek Embassy in Washington to events and cultural occasions, frequently hosting the Hellenic-American community and the diplomatic community at large. I was honored to be included at many of these events and even, on one special occasion, to be honored by the Greek Embassy. It was a true highlight of my career, the memory of which I will always treasure.

During his four years as Ambassador, Alexandros P. Mallias worked to ensure that the critical strategic relationship between Greece and the United States remained on a positive note. There is a fresh interest on the part of the United States to work with Greece on a wide array of issues of regional as well as global importance, such as the security of vital sea lanes.

As Ambassador Mallias has always said, Greece's greatest asset in the United States remains the vibrant Hellenic-American community, so many of whose members I am proud